

Appl. No. 09/976,499

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendments to the specification are presented to clarify the official record in respect of the above-identified application.

The amended paragraph of the specification properly indicates that this application claims "the benefit of", instead of "priority from", the earlier patent applications that were already identified in the specification.

For the assistance of the Examiner, Applicant has also clarified that the present application is a divisional of parent U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/851,565, and that the parent application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Applications Serial Nos. 09/823,667 and 09/779,381.

Applicant notes that this application had previously been amended to include specific references to the earlier applications of which the benefit is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 120. The above amendments merely clarify the benefit claims.

In the Office Action, claims 17 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for defining both a method and an apparatus. Although Applicant believes that these claims properly defined a multi-service segmentation and reassembly (MS-SAR) integrated circuit in terms of function, independent claim 17 has been amended so as to advance the examination of the present application. As amended, claim 17 now recites an MS-SAR integrated circuit comprising a plurality of input ports and means capable of performing certain functions.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

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The Office Action also included a rejection of claims 17 to 19, 45, 46, 48 to 50, 53, and 54 under 35 U.S.C. 102(u) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,216,167 (hereinafter Momoriv).

Independent claim 17 has been amended to incorporate features recited in claim 19, which has been cancelled. Claim 17 now defines an MS-SAR integrated circuit in which a flow is received from one of a plurality of input ports. Each of the input ports has a port identification number (port ID), and the MS-SAR has, for each of the input ports, access to locating information on where in a flow received on that input port an indication of application type would be located. The MS-SAR uses the port ID of a flow to access the locating information and uses the locating information to locate in the flow the indication of application type.

According to the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, Momoriv discloses a port identification number and uses this port number to access locating information for locating an indication of application type in a flow. In this regard, the Office Action refers to Figure 8 and column 9 lines 51 to 67 of Momoriv.

These portions of Momoriv refer to Port Interface Devices (PIDs) and PID numbers. However, PID numbers in Momoriv are used only to forward cells to PIDs. This is clearly described at column 9 lines 58 to 60, which state "If the cell is a unicast cell then the cell is forwarded to the appropriate PID based upon the PID number in the cell header". Similarly, multicast cells are forwarded "to all PIDs that include one or more member ports", as described at lines 2 to 4 of column 10.

Therefore, the PID numbers disclosed in Momoriv have no relevance to determining an application type for a flow. The PID numbers are used solely to forward cells to a destination port or a set of ports in the case of a multicast cell. Momoriv therefore fails to disclose at least the function of using a port identification number of a flow to access locating information that is used to locate in the flow an indication of application type, as recited in independent claim 17.

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Claim 17, and accordingly claim 18 which depends therefrom, include features that have not been disclosed in Momoriv.

Independent claims 45 and 53 have been amended to incorporate similar port identification number features that had been recited in claims 50 and 54, respectively, which have been cancelled. Claim 45 as amended recites that an egress device receives a flow on one of a plurality of logical input ports, that the logical input port upon which the flow is received has a port identification number (PID), and that the egress device uses the PID to locate an embedded indication of a selected egress application type in the flow. Claim 53 similarly recites that a flow is received onto a logical input port of an integrated circuit, that the logical input port has a port identification number, and that means for locating in the flow and extracting from the flow an indication of a selected egress application type uses the port identification number to locate the selected egress application type.

As discussed in detail above in respect of claim 17, Momoriv does not disclose a port identification number that is used in the manner defined in the claims. Claims 45 and 53, as well as the rejected dependent claims 46, 48, and 49 which depend from claim 45, thus include features that have not been disclosed in Momoriv.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 17, 18, 45, 46, 48, 49, and 53 are not anticipated by Momoriv. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation objection under 35 U.S.C.102(e) are respectfully requested.

It should be noted that claims 17, 45, and 53 have been amended solely to advance the examination of the present application. Applicant believes that the rejected claims in their previous form included further features that are not disclosed in Momoriv.

Regarding dependent claims 48, 49, and 51, these claims have been amended for consistency with the amendments made to claim 45, from which these claims depend.

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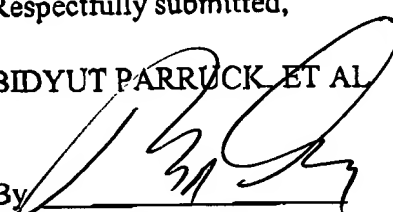
Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication on page 5 of the Office Action that claims 45, 51, and 52 include allowable subject matter, and that claims 55 and 56 have been allowed. As discussed in detail above, claims 17, 18, 45, 46, 48, 49, and 53 are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action to this end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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